

*The former Reid railway ran along the right of this photograph of the easement (out of view), parallel with the southern (or Lake Burley Griffin) side of present day Amaroo Street, Reid. Photo: Nick D taken 17 May 2014 ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old\\_railway\\_easement\\_in\\_Reid\\_May\\_2014.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_railway_easement_in_Reid_May_2014.jpg))*

## The Railway that ran through Reid

Few in Canberra may be aware that some 98 years ago a railway line ran from Kingston to Canberra City, and perhaps less that this extraordinary development in Canberra's early history has finally been recognised by the ACT Heritage Council with an entry in the ACT Heritage Register in 2017, although the physical remnants of the railway line are scant today.

A railway to the City centre was part of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra, although bureaucratic opposition and World War I (1914-18) prevented the construction of the rail link. A temporary rail line was approved in late 1920 from the Kingston Powerhouse

### *Contents*

<b>The Railway that ran through Reid</b>	<b>p1</b>
<b>Volunteer of the Year; President's Update</b>	<b>p3</b>
<b>Coming up: Travels and at home with the Trust</b>	<b>p5</b>
<b>National Trust ACT Heritage Festival Events</b>	<b>p6</b>
<b>Heritage Diary</b>	<b>p9</b>
<b>National Trust Tour and Event Reports</b>	<b>p10</b>
<b>Heritage Happenings</b>	<b>p12</b>
<b>Donation Form</b>	<b>p13</b>

rail siding, past the Causeway, north across the Molonglo River on a timber trestle bridge, to the vicinity of present day Russell, crossing Anzac Parade at a point adjacent to the southern or Lake side of present day Amaroo Street, Reid, and along Amaroo Street, curving into Glebe Park, passing the Canberra Times Fountain (where old railway sleepers were excavated during construction of the Fountain) and terminating near Elouera Street, Braddon.

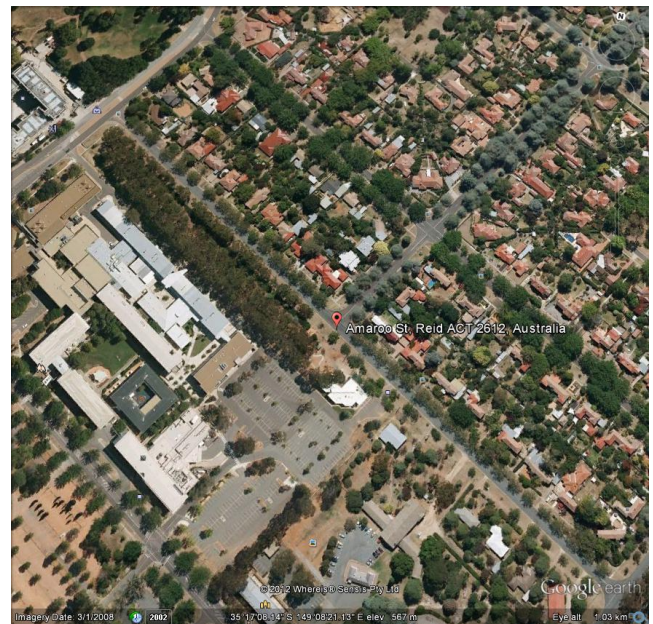


*Civic Centre platform of the 1921-22 construction railway, after the rails had been lifted. Construction was of timber facings backfilled with soil. Photo: B.T. Macdonald*

The railway was constructed by the NSW Public Works Department on behalf of the Commonwealth and completed at a cost of £5,370, and opened on 15 June 1921. It was a single line of rail on timber sleepers with minimal ballast and it was used to transport construction materials to Civic. It also carried labourers and reportedly travelled at a speed of less than 10 kph, and even slower as it passed St John the Baptist Anglican Church, Reid, so as not to disrupt services. There were about half a dozen platforms planned along the railway route, with the main platform in what is present day Garema Place.



*The railway bridge over the Molonglo River, showing destruction of the trestles by floods on 26-27 July 1922 (Mildenhall collection/ National Archives of Australia)*



*Location of the former City Railway in Reid: a 2008 colour aerial photograph showing Amaroo Street, Reid, and the tree plantings (top left) with the start of a curve towards Glebe Park, which tracks the former City railway line. Source: Saved from Google maps, 2012*

The life of the 'temporary' railway was short-lived. On 26-27 July 1922 the worst floods in 30 years washed away or damaged around a dozen trestle piers, leaving the bridge deck suspended by the rails over the swollen Molonglo River. Damage was also sustained to the abutments on either side of the river. Although plans were made to repair or rebuild the bridge, no action was taken.

The railway line was still clearly visible in Reid and near to Civic until September 1939. After the outbreak of World War II, the steel rail was salvaged, reportedly to aid the War effort. The timber sleepers were generally left *in situ*, but residents of Reid have reported that they were collected and burnt on bonfires to celebrate Empire Day, and later the Queen's Birthday in June.

Although today there is almost no physical evidence of the former railway, such as steel rail, wooden sleepers or rail spikes, the former railway easement in Reid, which runs parallel to Amaroo Street, clearly shows the alignment of the railway through tree plantings at ground level, and through aerial photographs.

The entry in the ACT Heritage Register recognises the significance of the City railway in Canberra's early development and is to be applauded. The National Trust (ACT) nominated the place in 2005 for inclusion in the Register and has strongly supported its assessment on the grounds of its importance to the course or pattern of

the ACT's cultural or natural history and link to Walter Burley Griffin.

This has now been accepted by the ACT Heritage Council and the railway remnant and former easement in Reid are to be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance. The Trust hopes that, in due course, interpretive signage will be installed to highlight the reasons for the heritage significance of the former Kingston to City railway.

## John Tucker

### Note

A much more extensive account of the Kingston to City railway is contained in the Canberra & District Historical Society Inc's March 2018 Canberra Historical Journal (No. 80) in "*Mr Griffin's City Railway: A Short-Lived Wonder*" by Mark Butz. Useful information is also contained in Bruce Macdonald's article "*Early Railways in the ACT*" which was published in the Summer 2000 edition of the National Trust (ACT)'s *Heritage in Trust* and in Keith Baker's "*A Century of Canberra Engineering*" published by Engineers Australia. The ACT Heritage Council also published in June 2017 "*Background Information City Railway Remnants: Block 12 (part) Section 33, Reid; and The Causeway, Kingston*" which contains a wealth of information on the former railway as well as photographs, plans and maps. JT

## Volunteer of the Year 2017



Congratulations and a big thank you to **Karen Moore** from staff, Council and Committee members for her commitment, cheerful presence and important contribution to the office over the past couple of years.

Karen is the volunteer librarian for the National Trust (ACT) and has recently finished cataloguing the books we received from the Australian Council of National Trusts early in 2017 for incorporation into the ACT collection.

The books have been catalogued so that the records are consistent with National Library guidelines. Karen is an experienced librarian having worked in public, academic and special (law) libraries as well as a research area.

## President's Update

This is my first report as the new President of the National Trust ACT. Since the AGM the National Trust ACT has received significant unforeseen challenges. These challenges mean changes and opportunities for the Trust. We can meet the challenges and seize opportunities if we press on with the renewal of the Trust as a unified, inclusive and influential force that contributes to the development and preservation of the Bush Capital through new ideas, policies and activities.

Challenges include:

- Repercussions from the National Trust ACT assisting the preservation of the Beyer Garratt-6029 Locomotive. A substantial payment has been requested in compensation for our part in trying to maintain its location in Canberra. This is currently under dispute and subject to further legal discussion. It would appear that there are hidden and costly dangers in advocacy for Canberra's heritage these days.
- The Australian Council of National Trusts of which all Australian Trusts are members has suffered significant shortfalls in revenue which will impact on the finances of the National Trust ACT, but more so the larger state Trusts.
- A pro-development government with little regard for the heritage of the capital. The National Trust ACT has made several representations to the Heritage Minister on a range of issues including funding for the Trust and other heritage organisations. While our representations have received genuine, sympathetic responses, little or no progress has been made.
- Office downsizing – due to financial pressures such as ACT Government rent increases, the National Trust ACT is looking to downsize its office. The Council is currently looking at all available options including relocation of our heritage library.

Positives include:

- An influx of committed volunteers looking at developing an Innovation Park/Museum, perhaps at Fyshwick. This concept has so far received positive feedback and support from both government and private enterprise.
- Stronger links with ACT universities with increased input and support from younger generations.
- Development of stronger links with the Canberra region as opposed to just the ACT.
- Increasing membership.

Now more than ever we need the support of our members as our heritage in the ACT and region is under real threat. We need your support to volunteer at events, particularly during the upcoming Heritage Festival, on committees such as the Tours and Events Committee, as a tour guide, a Council member or just to provide ideas on how to finance the Trust's ongoing advocacy work. Together we can be the force that protects the heritage of our bush capital from the development-at-any-cost government.

**Chris Wain**

## National Archives of Australia

Due to remedial works being undertaken on the East Block building, the National Archives has moved just around the corner to Old Parliament House.

You can visit our reading room and view facsimiles of the Constitution and other founding documents at our new location in Old Parliament House.

We will be back in East Block in late 2018 with an exciting new program. Visit our website for more details:

[naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au)

## New members

The National Trust (ACT) warmly welcomes the following new members:

Mr Rich & Ms Miriam Brown  
Mr Kenneth & Mrs Susan Cassidy  
Ms Janis Dogan  
Ms Jacqui Moulang & Mr Len Dowling  
Ms Bailey Dunn  
Ms Katherine Harman & Mr Rohan Fernando  
Mrs Barbara and Mr Robert Flynn  
Mr Andrew Wallace & Ms Bronwyn Garrett  
Mr John & Mrs Helen Grant  
Ms Susan Green  
Ms Jane Hamilton  
Mr Geoff & Mrs Meredith Hayes  
Mr Timothy & Mrs Rosslyn Holt  
Mr Owen & Mrs Allison Jones  
Ms Tralie Kimlin  
Mr Tom King  
Mr Don & Mrs Rose Limm  
Mr Gerald & Mrs Janet Lynch  
Ms Colleen Mock  
Mr Geoff & Mrs Jennifer Moore  
Mr Chris & Mrs Catherine Murphy  
Mr Rod & Mrs Joan Nichols  
Mr Ross & Mrs Susan Pettersson  
Mrs Robyn Rankin & Mrs Emma Rankin  
Mr James and Mrs Joan Richards  
Mrs Sue and Mr David Robinson  
Ms Monica Stephens  
Ms Julie Taylor & Mr Mark Stevenson  
Ms Rosy Pate & Mr Ray Tracey  
Mrs Krista Vane-Tempest & Miss Olivia Vane-Tempest  
Ms Margaret Walshe  
Mr Ian & Mrs Wendy Winge



## National Trust Online Shop

Find that special gift at the National Trust Shop:  
<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.au/>

## Volunteer Opportunity

### Volunteering at Tuggeranong Schoolhouse



*Back to school after learning about school, and life, more than one hundred years ago*

I've just spent a delightful couple of hours volunteering at Tuggeranong Schoolhouse to assist with the visit of 45 Year 1s from Garran Primary!

The children were divided into three groups, each accompanied by a teacher. Each group spent time in the classroom with Elizabeth; outside exploring the grounds and playing old-fashioned games; and in the house with Wendy, Mavis and me. We talked about the people who lived in the house and the objects they might have owned and used.

I'm not sure who had more fun, us or the children! The kids were fascinated by items such as soap-savers,

chamber pots, bedwarmers and gramophones! And so were the young teachers who hadn't see many of the items before. What's more, the children could touch and play with things, unlike at most museums they would visit. Elizabeth had visited Garran Primary beforehand and the children were keen to identify objects she had shown them then.



*Mavis and children in the kitchen*

It's a great opportunity to share history with the younger generation so if you would like to help Elizabeth Burness with future school visits (or even with older folk who enjoy the trip back in time), please contact her at [burness@inet.net.au](mailto:burness@inet.net.au) or on 0400 391 440. Experience and dressing up not essential!

**Mary Johnston, National Trust (ACT) Councillor**  
(text and photos)

## Coming up: Travels and at home with the Trust

### Heritage Walk 7: Life in early Hall Sunday 25 March 9.30-11.30am



*Cooe Cottage (c 1911)*

Hall is a village from Canberra's pastoral era. Old buildings, tall stories. Meander through the historic village of Hall which was proclaimed in 1882 and initially named Ginninderra. View an unusual mix of dwellings and sites depicting early village life. There is the option to view Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre at the conclusion of the walk. Visit the original school building (1911) and the Centre's latest exhibition 'A Tale of Two Villages', the story of the transition from Ginninderra to Hall.

**Meet:** At the Palmer Street entrance of the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre (formerly Hall Primary School). Free off-road parking available.

**Length and terrain:** The walk will take approximately 1.5 hours and is approximately 2 kms on flat terrain, along identified tracks, footpaths and paved roads.

**Bad weather:** The walk will be postponed with a date to be advised. If unsure, contact the walk leader, Tony Morris on 0427 302 317.

**Book:** [www.heritagewalk7-hall.eventbrite.com](http://www.heritagewalk7-hall.eventbrite.com)

**Walk leader:** Tony Morris, village resident for 53 years and descendant of two pioneer Hall families.

**Cost:** \$7 per person

### Heritage Walk 6: Callum Brae Nature Reserve (postponed from February) Sunday 8 April 9.30-11.30am



Our walk will take us through the Red Box-Yellow Gum grassy woodland to a view eastward and will include powder magazines. The nature reserve is popular with bird watchers.

The heritage-listed property of Callum Brae can tell us a lot about the Commonwealth Soldier Settlement scheme after World War I. While most farm blocks within this scheme failed across Australia, Callum Brae is the most significant surviving example in the ACT, with buildings and fittings remaining essentially unchanged since the 1920s and 1930s. Callum Brae is a working farm today and not accessible to the public; however, we will be able to view it from their fence line.

**Meet:** Entry to Callum Brae Nature Reserve, Narrabundah Lane, Symonston.

**Length and terrain:** 2 hours/3kms. Bush track and some short ascents.

**Bad weather:** The walk leader will be at the meeting point where a decision will be made as to whether to proceed or postpone.

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-6-callum-brae-nature-reserve-tickets-37630332337](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-6-callum-brae-nature-reserve-tickets-37630332337)

**Walk leader:** Linda Roberts

**Cost:** \$7 per person

## National Trust (ACT) Heritage Festival Events



### Open Day at Lanyon (with ACT Historic Places) Saturday 14 April, 10.00 am-3.00 pm



Celebrate the start of the 2018 Heritage Festival at Lanyon with the National Trust (ACT) and ACT Historic Places. View the homestead from a different angle and take a guided tour of the gardens. Craft activities, music,

dance and poetry. Plenty for the kids to do and see. Refreshments available.

Bookings not required. Gold coin donation.

### Heritage Walk 4 – Acton Peninsula – Canberra's birthplace and first suburb (postponed from December) Sunday 15 April, 9.30-11.30 am



Fascinating walk back in time to the site of Canberra's first European settlement in 1824 – the Acton Conservation Area. Acton is not only the birthplace of Canberra but also where it grew up. Find out about the public servants and tradies who lived and worked here a century ago.

**Bookings:** open on Eventbrite:

<https://heritagewalkact4acton.eventbrite.com.au>

**Tickets:** \$7.

### Reid Uniting Church Heritage Tour Sunday 15 April, 2.00-3.45 pm



Reid Uniting Church was Canberra's first urban church, opened as the South Ainslie Methodist Church. The Korean Uniting Church congregation now occupies the Church. The Church is in the heritage-listed Reid Urban Conservation area and has been entered on the ACT Heritage Register. Tour the Church with a heritage architect and stay for afternoon tea.

**Bookings** will open on 21 March with National Trust (ACT) on 6230 0533 or [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

**Tickets:** Adults \$20; children and concessions \$10.

### Yarralumla Heritage Walk 1 – Westlake/Stirling Park/Guru Bung Dhaura Thursday 19 April, 9.30-11.30 am



Discover the cultural and natural heritage of the area known to Ngunawal people as Guru Bung Dhaura (or 'stony ground') where the former Canberra suburb, Westlake, was constructed and Stirling Park, Yarralumla, is located. Learn about Aboriginal heritage, the early

Canberra Works Settlements, and the habitat of the heritage-listed Button Wrinklewort.

**Bookings** will open on 21 March on Eventbrite at <https://yarralumlaheritagewalk1westlake.eventbrite.com.au>

**Tickets:** \$7.

### Democracy Heritage Walks

Saturday 21 April, 2.00-4.00 pm (& Sunday 6 May 9.30-11.30 am)



Celebrate the people, places and dates associated with the development of Australia's democracy and our national government. The sites we visit all show different aspects of our democracy at work, how it works and who makes it work, from ordinary citizens to elected leaders.

**Bookings** will open on 21 March on Eventbrite at

<https://democracyheritagewalks.eventbrite.com.au>

**Tickets:** \$7.

### Landscape of Learning – Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse (with Australian Garden History Society)

Sunday 22 April, 2.00-4.00 pm



Visit historic Tuggeranong Schoolhouse in its developing gardens and neighbouring landscape. Learn about creating suitable garden surrounds for this heritage property that opened as a public school for pioneer Tuggeranong families in 1880 and operated for nearly 60 years before closing in 1939.

**Bookings** will open on 21 March with the National Trust (ACT) on 6230 0533 or [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

**Tickets:** Adults \$10, children free.

### Yarralumla Heritage Walk 2 – from test-tubes to trees

Saturday 28 April, 9.30-11.30 am



Explore the heritage buildings and landscape of the former Forestry School precinct - Forestry House, the former Museum building, the Australian Forestry School building, the incinerator designed by Walter Burley Griffin and the second oldest housing area in Canberra from the 1920s. We finish near the Tudor-style school principal's residence, Westridge House.

**Bookings** will open on 21 March on Eventbrite at <https://yarralumlaheritage2-from-tubes-to-trees.eventbrite.com.au>

**Tickets:** \$7.

### National Trust Farm Day at Cliftonwood (with Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club and Yass Historical Society)

Saturday 28 April, 10.00 am-7.00 pm



Cliftonwood is one of the oldest properties in Yass, built by the Watson family in 1841. Experience a day on the farm enjoying various activities and spectacles. There will be rare steam and petrol engines, vintage farm machinery, farm animals, period food, dress ups, live music and old-time activities for children.

Bookings not required. Address: 41 Irvine Dr, Yass  
**Entry:** \$5

### Yarralumla Heritage Walk 3 – from sheep to shrubs (Heritage Walk 8)

Sunday 29 April, 9.30-11.30 am



Visit the site of one of Canberra's first pastoral settlements dating from 1828 which became Government House. Follow the scenic shores of Lake Burley Griffin through the edge of Weston's major arboretum to heritage listed Yarralumla Nursery and Hobday's Cottage for a guided tour through the Nursery's history and heritage.

Note that this is the regular April Heritage Walk and **bookings** are open for this on Eventbrite at <https://heritagewalk8-yarralumla-from-sheep-to-shrubs.eventbrite.com.au>

**Tickets:** \$7

## National Trust (ACT) Members Reward Card

The Tours Committee has revived the Members Reward Card so if you attend 3 member activities then the 4<sup>th</sup> activity is free for you, or you can bring a friend (non-member or member) free of charge.

Your card can be stamped at fee-paying events which cost \$20 or more, including bus trips and the Christmas party but can only be redeemed at events to the value of \$25. New and renewing members will receive new Reward Cards but existing cards can also be used.

It's up to members to mention when booking for an event that you are due for a free event. In order to redeem your free activity, you must produce your card (with 3 stamps) and have the 4<sup>th</sup> ticked off on arrival at the event.

**Mary Johnston**

Chair, Tours Committee



## Heritage Diary March to September 2018

A selection of heritage-related events that may be of interest to members

Details of National Trust (ACT) events are provided on pages 5-6

Entries in **blue** are National Trust Heritage Festival events – for details see pages 6-8

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Wednesday 21 March 6.00pm	<b>Museum Friends and CAS lecture series.</b> Josephine Flood, <i>Moth hunters of the ACT: Indigenous traditional life in the Canberra region.</i> National Museum of Australia.	CAS	CAS members and Friends of the Museum free. Non-members \$5. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 25 March 9.30-11.30am	<b>NT Heritage Walk 7 – Life in Early Hall</b>	National Trust	Book now at <a href="http://www.heritagewalk7-hall.eventbrite.com">www.heritagewalk7-hall.eventbrite.com</a>
Sunday 8 April 9.30-11.3-0am	<b>NT Heritage Walk 6 – Callum Brae</b> (postponed from 25 February)	National Trust	Places available. Book now at <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-6-callum-brae-nature-reserve-tickets-37630332337">www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-6-callum-brae-nature-reserve-tickets-37630332337</a>
Saturday 14 to Sunday 29 April	<b>Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.</b> The theme this year is <i>My Culture, My Story.</i>	ACT Government	<a href="http://www.act.gov.au/heritagefestival">www.act.gov.au/heritagefestival</a> Printed program will be in the Canberra Weekly issue of 5 April.
Saturday 14 April 10.00am-3.00pm	<b>National Trust Open Day – Lanyon Homestead</b>	National Trust	Gold coin donation. No bookings required
Sunday 15 April 9.30-11.30am	<b>NT Heritage Walk 4 – Acton Peninsula</b> (postponed from 31 December)	National Trust	\$7. Spaces available. Book at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-act-4-acton-peninsula-tickets-37629538964">https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-act-4-acton-peninsula-tickets-37629538964</a>
Sunday 15 April 2.00-3.45pm	<b>Reid Uniting Church Heritage Tour</b>	National Trust	Adults \$20, children and concessions \$10. Book from 21 March with the National Trust on 6230 0533 or <a href="mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au">info@nationaltrustact.org.au</a>
Wednesday 18 April 6.00pm	<b>Museum Friends and CAS lecture series.</b> Debbie Argue, <i>Homo floresiensis: a review of research – the first 13 years.</i> National Museum of Australia	CAS	CAS members and Friends of the Museum free. Non-members \$5. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Thursday 19 April 9.30-11.30am	<b>Yarralumla Heritage Walk 1 – Westlake/Stirling Park/Guru Bung Dhaura</b>	National Trust	\$7. Book from 21 March at <a href="https://yarralumlaheritagewalk1westlake.eventbrite.com.au">https://yarralumlaheritagewalk1westlake.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Saturday 21 April 2.00-4.00pm (see also 6 May)	<b>Democracy Heritage Walks</b>	National Trust	\$7. Book from 21 March at <a href="https://democracyheritagewalks.eventbrite.com.au">https://democracyheritagewalks.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 22 April 2.00-4.00pm	<b>Landscape of Learning – Old Tuggeranong School House</b>	Joint AGHS and National Trust	Adults \$10, children free. Book from 21 March with the National Trust on 6230 0533 or <a href="mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au">info@nationaltrustact.org.au</a>
Friday 27 April to Wednesday 2 May	<b>6-day coach tour to the South Australian Riverland</b>	National Trust	For a copy of the full itinerary or to put in an expression of interest, please contact the NT office on <a href="mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au">info@nationaltrustact.org.au</a> or 6230 0533.
Saturday 28 April 9.30-11.30am	<b>Yarralumla Heritage Walk 2 – From test tubes to trees</b>	National Trust	\$7. Book from 21 March at <a href="https://yarralumlaheritage2-from-tubes-to-trees.eventbrite.com.au">https://yarralumlaheritage2-from-tubes-to-trees.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Saturday 28 April 10.00am-7.00pm	<b>National Trust Farm Day at Cliftonwood</b>	National Trust with Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club and Yass Historical Society	\$5 entry. No bookings required.

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Sunday 29 April 9.30-11.30am	<b>Yarralumla Heritage Walk 3/NT Heritage Walk 8 – Yarralumla. From sheep to shrubs</b>	National Trust	\$7. Book now at <a href="http://www.heritagewalk8-yarralumla-from-sheep-to-shrubs.eventbrite.com">www.heritagewalk8-yarralumla-from-sheep-to-shrubs.eventbrite.com</a>
Sunday 29 April 10.30-11.30am and 1.00-2.00pm	<b>Walk – Lanyon Canoe Tree A Heritage Festival Evnet</b>	ACT Historic Places	Free. Book via eventbrite.
Sunday 6 May 9.30-11.30am	<b>Democracy Heritage Walks</b>	National Trust	\$7. Book from 21 March at <a href="https://democracyheritagewalks.eventbrite.com.au">https://democracyheritagewalks.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 27 May 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk 9 – Molonglo River Reserve</b>	National Trust	Book now at <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-9-molonglo-river-reserve/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-9-molonglo-river-reserve/</a>
Wednesday 19 September 6.00pm	<b>Museum Friends and CAS lecture series.</b> Fenja Theden-Ring, <i>Archaeology surveys and excavations in the ACT and NSW high country.</i> National Museum of Australia.		CAS members and Friends of the Museum free. Non-members \$5. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>

Note: AGHS is the Australian Garden History Society. CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. Information on events run by organisations other than the National Trust (ACT) is provided in good faith, but readers should check dates and times with the contacts indicated above.

## Trust Tour and Event Reports

Unfortunately, the Christmas Party which was scheduled for Sunday 3 December had to be cancelled due to forecast poor weather.

### Day tour to Bowning, Binalong and Yass

**11 November**

#### Banjo Paterson country here we come!

The 'we' are 42 who enjoyed a full day on Saturday 11 November 2017 exploring heritage on our doorstep. 'Cliftonwood' set the tone for a great day. Built by John Watson around 1841 on land owned by Hamilton Hume, with beautiful views of the town and Yass River, this jewel is being restored by current owner Tony Wade. Amongst the outbuildings are a stable and 'Watson's Bottle' — a huge 8m deep underground grain storage tank. Many thanks to Cheryl Mongan and volunteers from the Yass & District Historical Society for guiding us through.



*Our early morning introduction to Cliftonwood, Yass*

Anticipation was high for morning tea at the delightful Rollonin Café, 15km away in Bowning, and its massive scones didn't disappoint. It is a replica of an old slab hut, although we were in the outside shelter, surrounded by a cottage garden at its late springtime best with stunning roses. Next door is the former Cobb & Co. coaching station, now a private residence.



*The Rollonin Café at Bowning*

We heard that Henry Lawson enjoyed yarns with Banjo Paterson here in Bowning. Jenny Gall read passages from her book *Looking for Rose Paterson* which provided the most apt commentary as we drove to Illalong and Binalong. There is nothing left of Rose's house where she raised eight children except for the wisteria she planted, which had entwined a piece of corrugated iron allegedly from the original house. Although the owners were not present they allowed us to check out this hallowed Paterson ground.

Still full from scones we checked out the heritage-listed Binalong Catholic precinct, and wandered to the cemetery where Jenny guided us to Banjo's father's grave. The success of the day was due to Pip Giovanelli's sharing of knowledge. As heritage consultant to Yass (and other shires), Pip was well placed to inform us as we drove through the region.



*Some of the group at the former railway siding*

At lunch we heard about Binalong's history, then took in the various architectural styles in the main street from pise, Victorian, Federation and Interwar. Our final stop at the Yass Farm Machinery 'Museum' was preceded by a stroll around the historic block and afternoon tea (that ginger slice is popular), before Max enthused about rusty tractors and farming aids. Our sunny enjoyable day came to an end with stormy skies as we returned to Canberra at 6pm.

**Linda Roberts**  
(text and photos)

## Heritage Walks

Two walks had to be postponed. **Walk 4 in Acton is now scheduled for Sunday 15 April and Walk 6 in the Callum Brae Nature Reserve for Sunday 8 April.** See *Coming Up: Travels and at home with the Trust* on pages 5 and 6.

### Oaks Estate Heritage Walk Sunday 26 November 2017

November's walk along the Molonglo River at Oaks Estate with Dr Karen Williams enlightened participants about this little-known part of the ACT. Walkers were very impressed with the new signage erected by ACT Heritage about the history of settlement in the Oaks Estate area from the Aboriginal camps along the river

through to the workers who helped construct Canberra. Karen also explained some of the reasons why Oaks Estate was recently rejected for heritage listing and how this might be addressed in the future. After our exploration of the river walk, participants were eager to learn more about the residential area which Karen has suggested should be a future Heritage Walk!

For anyone interested in learning more about Oaks Estate, the National Trust published an article by Dr Williams in 2012 which you can find at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2012-May-HIT.pdf>

We thank Karen for leading this walk and for her long dedication to Oaks Estate.

Check out the Walk photos at [www.facebook.com/HeritageWalksACT](http://www.facebook.com/HeritageWalksACT)

**Mary Johnston**

### Mt Stromlo Heritage Walk 21 January 2017

Intrepid Heritage Walkers braved what promised to be a heat wave morning on the heights of Mt Stromlo. Our Walk Leader Dr Brad Tucker, astronomer and heart of the site's outreach program, had stepped into the role at short notice and had thoughtfully designed a route that kept us in the shade or inside air-conditioned buildings. Brad enthralled us with the history of the first telescope building which also contained living accommodation. Destroyed by the 2003 fires, as was most of the site, its blackened shell has been conserved as an important part of Canberra and Australia's cultural and scientific heritage.

A lesson in heritage protection, the walk took us to elegant buildings that had been destroyed but rebuilt to replicate the originals dating from the early 20th century, and to other fire-blackened telescope buildings, complete with the twisted metal of their telescopes. It would have been easy to bulldoze the whole site and start again, but we are fortunate that those responsible had the vision to preserve in creative ways evidence of the rich history of this place, which will inevitably become of even more value as the years pass. Brad was also able to enlighten us about the varied and exciting astronomy that is being conducted at Mt Stromlo today.

**Trevor Lipscombe**

## Heritage Happenings

There has been less activity on the heritage front of recent times while major projects which were indicated to be available for public comment have yet to be realized. This includes the Canberra Brickworks, the Kingston Powerhouse Precinct and the Haig Park Conservation Plan and Masterplan. However there has been some activity which is outlined below.

1. **St Andrews Conservation Management Plan.**  
This is a building on land which has NCA planning control but NCA do not control internal works. As there is a conservation agreement between St Andrews and the National Trust which enables donations to a conservation fund to be tax deductible, the National Trust was asked to review and endorse the Conservation Management Plan and it will now be used as a guide for all conservation works on the site.
2. **Trettes, Jervis Bay.** This is a holiday cottage and one of the original and last cottages in Jervis Bay but is under imminent threat of demolition. The National Trust has been assisting the owner to prepare a nomination for heritage listing. The interesting issue here has been a jurisdictional one, that is whether the Commonwealth Heritage Register applies and/or the ACT Heritage Act applies as the Territory is largely managed by the ACT. There is no clear outcome despite contact with both authorities.
3. The National Trust supported the Cultural Facilities Corporation's bid for a museum in one of the **Northbourne Housing Precinct Flats** where it could consider promoting the NCDC era of ACT heritage which would be a welcome addition to the existing museums. Unfortunately, the Government has decided that this will not be supported.
4. It is pleasing to see that the Guardians of Lake Burley Griffin have nominated **Lake Burley Griffin** to the National Heritage List and we hope that it is considered early and supported.

The lake is a major element in Canberra's infrastructure and it is important that its significance is recognized and adequately protected.

5. The future of the **former CSIRO HQ building and site in Campbell** is still in limbo while the Federal Department of Environment considers the heritage issues as part of a request to demolish the building. The Heritage Management Plan and other studies identified heritage values with the building and site but the demolition proposal was still lodged for approval. Another issue that seems to have not been fully investigated is the potential for Indigenous and geological values of the site. The National Trust made a submission re the proposal and is waiting on the outcome.
6. The Kingston Barton Residents Association have been busy and nominated the **Kingston Hotel** to the ACT Heritage Register and it is pleasing to note that the nomination has been received and will be assessed.

The Heritage and Planning Committee had a very useful meeting in February with the ACT Government Architect, Catherine Townsend. One of the items discussed was the Victorian Government's promotion of 'Good Design and Heritage' guide and the NSW Government's 'Better Placed'. Both are strategic planning approaches to improve the quality of design and both have specific reference to design within a heritage context. This highlights that it is possible to retain heritage places, add modern buildings and provide a good outcome. The National Trust suggests that the ACT Government should consider something similar.

The Heritage Committee would welcome any new member to the committee, and any heritage issues can be brought to its attention.

**Eric Martin, AM**

The end of the financial year isn't far away. Now is a good time to make your donation to the ACT National Trust and help us to conserve and safeguard places of heritage significance for future generations. Please copy and fill in the form and send to the Trust or you can donate on-line at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/donate-act/>

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## National Trust of Australia (ACT)

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### Normal Opening Times:

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Office Manager: Liz McMillan

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- + Access to archival information held in the Trust office.
- + Access to events and other benefits arising from collaboration with organisations having similar interests to the Trust.
- + Concession entry to ACT Historic Places and 10% discount at Lanyon Homestead shop

## About Heritage in Trust

*Heritage in Trust* ISSN 2206-4958 is published three times a year, in March, July and November, as an electronic magazine specifically for ACT members. This edition was produced and edited by Wendy Whitham and Liz McMillan, assisted by Mary Johnston and Linda Roberts.

The editors invite articles and letters from Trust members with an interest in the heritage of the ACT and these should be addressed to The Editor, Heritage in Trust, at [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

### Deadlines for copy

mid February (for March issue)

mid June (for July issue)

mid October (for November issue)

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